

(c) the time by which the agreement is to be entered into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI-MATI D. K. THARA DEVI SID-DHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Deccan Hospital Corporation Ltd. (Appollo Group of Hospitals) have signed a collaboration agreement with Inter Industrial Self Supporting Foreign Trade Firm (ISS-FTF) of USSR on 20-4-1991 for setting up Apollo Fyodorov Eye Research Institute at Hyderabad for acquiring advance technology in the field of Eye Microsurgery developed at Intersectoral Research and Technology Complex (IRTC) USSR.

Water Crisis in Keoladeo National Park

4406. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA:

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur is facing a water crisis and as a result thereof the number of birds visiting the park from Europe, China and Siberia have gone down in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur faces water scarcity during some years when the area may suffer from drought. Because of the very wide fluctuations

in the estimated populations of migratory waterfowl wintering each year in the National Park, it is not possible to conclude that there is a definite correlation between these populations and the availability of water in the Park. However, in case of the Siberian cranes, their number arriving in the Park has been dwindling: from 38 in 1987 to 31, 23, 17 and 10 in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 respectively. Beside shortage of water in the Park, the other possible reasons for the decline could be poor breeding of the birds in Siberia and their persecution during the long migratory flight to India and back.

(c) Steps taken to augment water supply to the Keoladeo National Park include:

(i) The Government of Rajasthan have been requested to ensure that adequate water is released timely to the Park from the Panchna dam during times of drought.

(ii) Central assistance is provided each year for the development and maintenance of the National Park, including the disilting of water supply canals, construction and maintenance of sluice-gates and pumping of ground water.

(iii) The Government of Rajasthan have also been requested to explore the possibility of supplying water to the Park from the Chambal river.

Housing Loans to Beedi Workers

4407. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of housing loans sanctioned to Beedi workers during the last three years, State-wise: